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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Disease and Medical Facilities in North Korea

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Hamhung Area

- On 20 May 1952 in three villages in the Hamhung area, Pumin-ni (127-31, 39-58) (CV-7325), Hungsang-ni (127-31, 39-56) (CV-7321), and Changhung-ni (127-30, 39-59) (CV-7227), approximately 300 persons were afflicted with typhus, 150 persons with typhoid fever, and 100 persons with illnesses caused by malnutrition. Between 1 March 1952 and 20 May 1952 approximately one hundred and twenty persons died of disease. Sixty percent of the males afflicted and fifty percent of the females afflicted with all diseases were less than 15 years of age.

- Residents of Wonbong-ni (127-35, 40-00) (CV-7928), Sinp'ung-ni (127-15, 39-54) (CV-5018), and Sin'gan-ni (approximately 127-26, 39-56) (CV-6723) received immunization shots using medicine from China on 15 April, 2 May, and either 15 May or 20 May 1952. On 20 May straw ropes marked off areas near Hamhung in which disease was prevalent. No person was permitted to enter or leave these areas. Civilians were not permitted to enter Hamhung city without an immunization record.

Nan'gong-myŏn

- Between December 1950 and June 1951 North Korean residents afflicted with recurrent fever were usually bed-ridden for 2 to 4 months, resulting in a labor shortage for North Korean farms. The mortality rate of recurrent fever in the Nan'gong-myŏn (127-27, 38-41) (CT-6582) area was approximately 75 percent of those afflicted.

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4. In March 1952 North Korean authorities administered salvarsan and nobalsan (sic) without charge to patients at isolation wards. Persons afflicted with typhoid and small pox received inoculations of a Soviet drug, nishiwagtin (sic). Isolation ward officials were administering a zinc ointment and a 15 to 20 percent DDT solution, both manufactured at Munch'on (127-17, 39-17) (CU-5249) and P'yongyang, to patients afflicted with an unspecified disease.
5. Prior to 31 March 1952, each patient at the Nangong-myŏn isolation ward received 600 grams of cereal daily. On 1 April, when the food shortage in North Korea necessitated suspension of this ration, the family of each patient was to provide the patient with food. Each patient received 30 North Korean won daily to aid in the purchase of this food.

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